

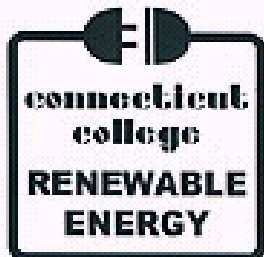


Connecticut College Renewable Energy Campaign: 4 Years of Success

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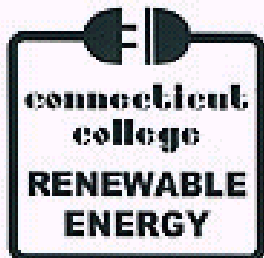
Center for Resource Solutions

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2000-2001: Fundraising, Education,
Networking and Lobbying



Support of Renewable Electricity at Connecticut College

Summary

At this moment Connecticut College purchases electricity from unsustainable sources through Connecticut Light and Power. The power from coal, oil, gas, and nuclear plants is damaging to the environment and human health; it also increases our dependence on foreign energy supplies. As a student, I urge Connecticut College to purchase green, local, renewable (forever) energy at a minor increase in cost. The college administration has agreed to phase in renewable electricity if students show support. I sign this petition to show I am willing to take a step into the future and support renewable, clean energy.

Body

Currently Connecticut College purchases electricity consisting of 25% natural gas, 21% nuclear, 18% coal, 18% oil, 6.5% high-impact hydroelectric, and 7.5% other sources of power sold by Connecticut Light and Power¹. There are serious environmental consequences caused by these electricity sources. Nuclear power plants create dangerous radioactive wastes that are difficult to dispose of and last centuries. Burning fossil fuels (coal, oil and natural gas) is a major cause of acid rain, a large source of global warming emissions (including carbon dioxide), a big producer of smog, toxic metals and tiny particle pollution (including sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide compounds). High-impact hydroelectric dams change natural river flows, degrade water quality, block fish migration, and promote the loss of endangered fish species. Not only are there environmental consequences, but human health suffers as well. According to a recent study completed by the American Lung Association, "Air pollution was found to be significantly and consistently correlated with worsening of asthma symptoms."² Connecticut College consumes 14,307,510 kilowatt-hours of electricity per year³. The use of 14,307,510 kilowatt-hours produces 6,898.3 tons of total polluting emissions per year (sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide compounds, coal ash, and carbon dioxide)⁴.

With the deregulation of electric companies, Connecticut College now has the ability to choose which company supplies its electricity. The Connecticut Energy Cooperative is the only green-e certified, 100% renewable electricity supplier in the state. The Connecticut Energy Cooperative sells electricity that consists of 68% low-impact hydroelectric dams, 27% biomass, and 5% wind⁵. Low-impact hydroelectric dams harness the energy of flowing water while helping to preserve aquatic life and stream habitat. Biomass facilities burn wood, agricultural wastes or methane gases from landfills. Windmills capture the energy of the earth's winds. Based on the 14,307,510 kilowatt-hours, if we purchase all our electricity from the Connecticut Energy Cooperative, Connecticut College will produce 0.8 tons of coal ash, and a total of 0.0708221 tons of polluting emissions per year (sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide compounds and carbon dioxide). This is a 99.999% reduction in environmentally degrading emissions.

Connecticut College has a long-standing tradition of environmental action and awareness that reflects its innovative policies. It is now time, in the year 2001, to take the next step forward in becoming a true environmental model by purchasing renewable electricity sources from the Connecticut Energy Cooperative. I want Connecticut College to phase in the purchasing of 100% renewable electricity from the Connecticut Energy Cooperative and I agree to pay an additional \$25.00 student fee per year that will help pay for the additional cost of this electricity. 100% of this additional student fee must be directly used towards purchasing renewable electricity.

Name	Signature	Class

¹ Connecticut Department of Public Utility Control

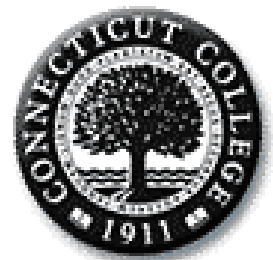
² www.lungusa.org/press/medical/medfebaf.html

³ Connecticut College Physical Plant Records

⁴ Northeast Utilities emission figures

⁵ Connecticut Energy Cooperative

- Circulated door-to-door petition asking student to commit to \$25 annual fee
- 76% of campus reached
- 98% of students reached said yes



Year One Success

- Spring 2001, Connecticut College signed a contract with the Connecticut Energy Co-operative.
- Initial purchase: 17% of the college's electricity.
- Sources: 100% clean, renewable sources: wind, biomass and low-impact hydro.



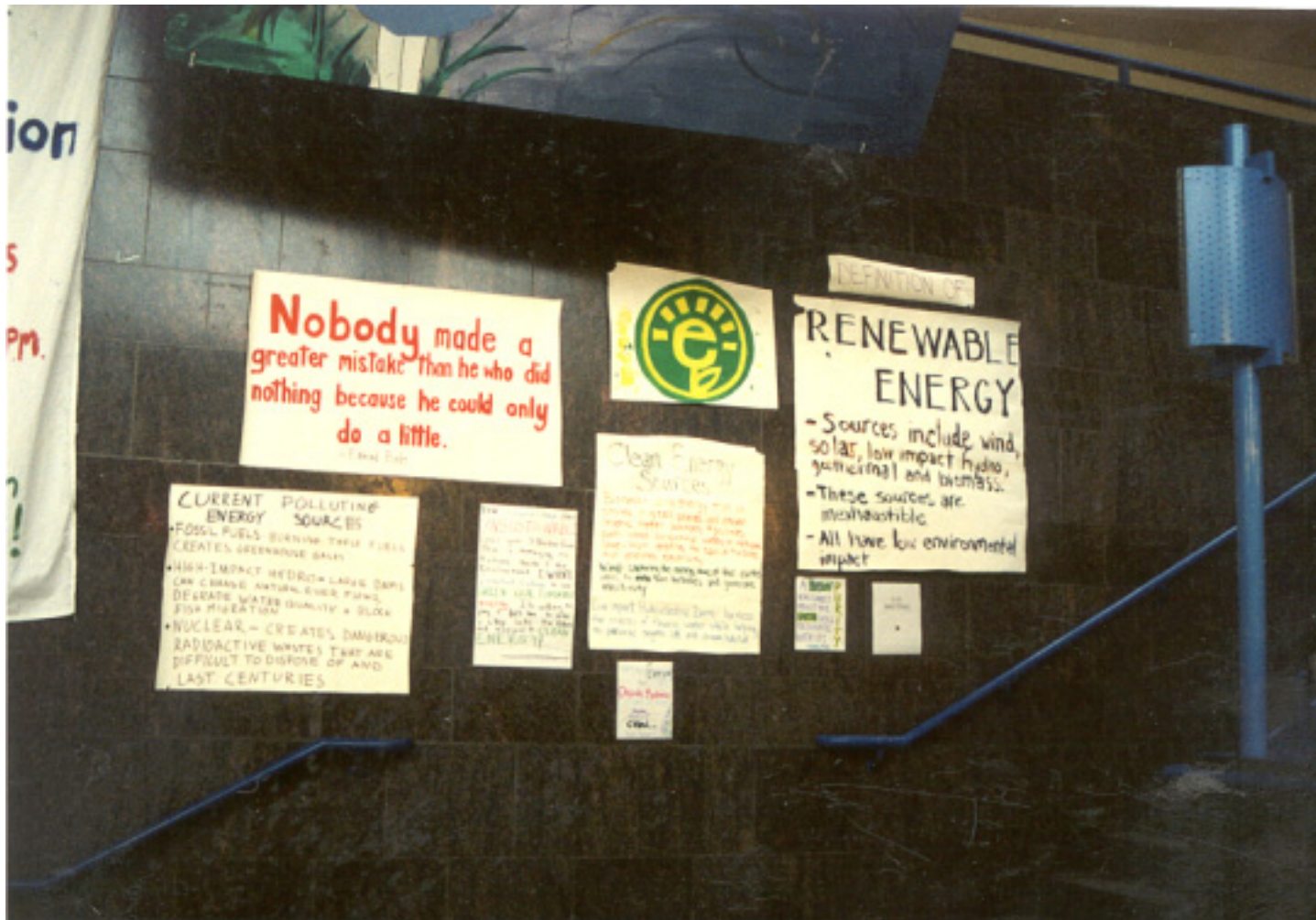
2001-2002: Campaign Strategies



The Renewable Energy Club's goal during year two was to build the campus' awareness of renewable energy purchase and to encourage energy conservation



2001-2002: Campaign Strategies



2001-2002: Campaign Strategies

Energy Conservation Events

- Eco Olympics: energy use and recycling competition between dorms
- “Do it in the Dark”: voluntary black-out night encouraging students to avoid electricity use for a night

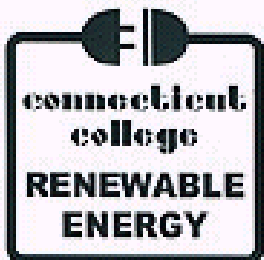


2002-2003: Campaign Strategies

- Exploring new options: Tradable Renewable Certificates
- Maintaining club retention and passing on the torch



REC Purchase in 2002-2003



- Offset 22% of college's energy consumption
- Green-e Certification provided assurance to Administration

2003-2004: Campaign Strategies

- Increasing the purchase
 - 6.7 million kWh per year of 100% new wind certificates
 - Purchase offsets 44% of college's annual electricity use.
- Drafted a College Energy Policy



Lessons Learned

- Students are the agents of change on their campuses
- Work WITH the Administration
- Think beyond the first year